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# VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

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**VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA** **September 2015**

## Don't Forget!

**The VacaValley Radio Club will resume meetings at the Elmira Firehouse on September 10.**

**The Board will meet at 7:00 pm followed by the general membership at 7:30 pm.**

**See you all there!**

### The FCC Universal Licensing System and other Applications to be down for Maintenance

FCC website maintenance in early September will make the Universal Licensing System (ULS), the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS) and other public applications unavailable for more than 5 days.

The Commission said the outage will begin at 2200 UTC on Wednesday, September 2, and continue through the Labor Day weekend. The maintenance work should be completed by 1200 UTC on Tuesday, September 8.

During the ULS outage, it will not be possible to file any Amateur Radio applications.

**In the old days it was two chickens in every pot and now it's two government employees for every taxpayer.**

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### Here's a tip from the Vallejo Ham Radio Club

If you have a Prolific radio programming cable, you will not be happy after you upgrade to Windows 10. They are no longer supported. At least that's what the web site says now.

Here's a quick and cheap ($2) fix:
http://www.miklor.com/COM/UV_ProgrCable.php

And here's a link to the little board on eBay:
http://www.ebay.com/itm/271582898514?_trksid=p2060353.m2749.l2649&ssPageName=STRK%3AMEBIDX%3AIT

There are others, of course. The important part is CP2102 for this model. But there are others which will work just as well.

You can also search for "FTDI" or "CHG340G"USB breakout board.

**Mike Morrow, NBARA**

Politics is like a stew. If you don't stir it up every once in a while then a layer of scum floats to the top.

**VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013**

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

President: Frank Garay, KJ6RWQ
Vice President: Kim, KJ6JNX
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

## Exploit found in the wild prompts emergency update, advisory to change passwords.

by Dan Goodin - Aug 7, 2015 10:00am PDT

A website in Russia has been caught exploiting a serious zero-day vulnerability in Mozilla's Firefox browser, prompting the open-source developer to deliver an emergency update that fixes the flaw.

The bug in a built-in PDF reader allowed attackers to steal sensitive files stored on the hard drives of computers that used the vulnerable Firefox version. The attack was used against both Windows and Linux users, Mozilla researcher Daniel Veditz wrote in a blog post published Thursday. The exploit code targeting Linux users uploaded cryptographically protected system passwords, bash command histories, secure shell (SSH) configurations and keys. The attacker downloaded several other files, including histories for MySQL and PgSQL and configurations for remina, Filezilla, and Psi+, text files that contained the strings "pass" and "access" in the names. Any shell scripts were also grabbed.

The attack targeting Windows users appeared to go after files of interest to software developers. The targeted data included subversion, s3browser, and Filezilla configurations files, .purple and Psi+ account information, and site configuration files from eight different popular FTP clients. Firefox users running Apple's OS X weren't targeted. The exploit was served in an advertisement on an undisclosed Russian news site, but Veditz said he couldn't rule out the possibility that other sites also hosted the attack. Some of those may have targeted Macs in addition to Windows and Linux.

"The exploit leaves no trace it has been run on the local machine," Veditz wrote. "If you use Firefox on Windows or Linux it would be prudent to change any passwords and keys found in the above-mentioned files if you use the associated programs. People who use ad-blocking software may have been protected from this exploit depending on the software and specific filters being used."

According to a blog post published Friday by Martijn Grooten, a security researcher for Virus Bulletin, the bug allows attackers to create malicious PDF files that inject JavaScript code into the local file context. The exploit bypasses the same-origin policy, allowing attackers to download local files.

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Mozilla has issued an emergency update patching the vulnerability. Users should check their version of Firefox to make sure they're running version 39.0.3. The fix has also been shipped in Firefox ESR 38.1.1.

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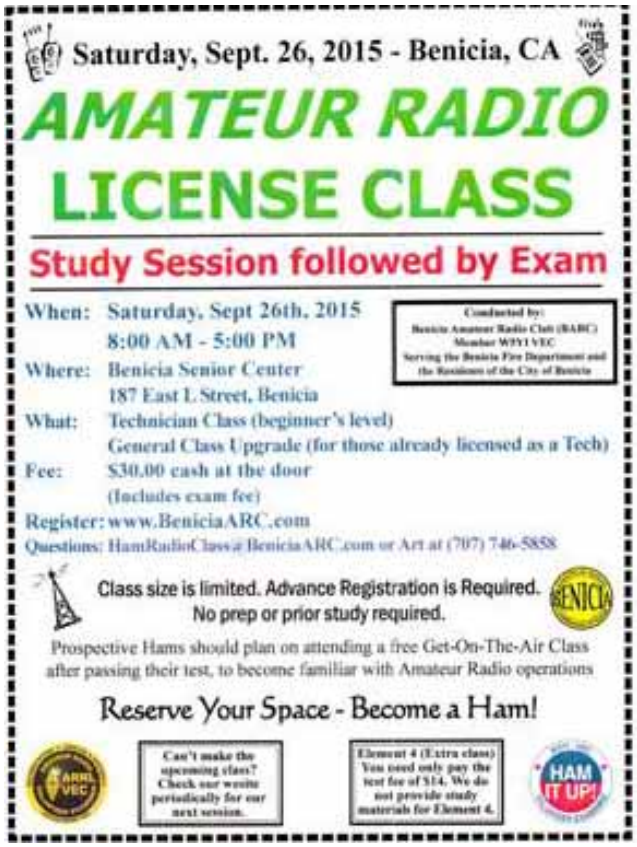
Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015 - Benicia, CA
AMATEUR RADIO
LICENSE CLASS
Study Session followed by Exam
When: Saturday, Sept 26th, 2015
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Where: Benicia Senior Center
187 East L Street, Benicia
What: Technician Class (beginner's level)
General Class Upgrade (for those already licensed as a Tech)
Fee: $30.00 cash at the door
(Includes exam fee)
Register: www.BeniciaARC.com
Questions: HamRadioClass@BeniciaARC.com or Art at (707) 746-5858
Class size is limited. Advance Registration is Required.
No prep or prior study required.
Prospective Hams should plan on attending a free Get-On-The-Air Class after passing their test, to become familiar with Amateur Radio operations
Reserve Your Space - Become a Ham!
HAM IT UP!

**BARC announcement in partnership with MDARC and SATERN DV.**

**Another One-Day Ham Radio Class has been scheduled for Sept 26th at the Benicia Senior Center.**

People wishing to earn a Ham license will take the Technician class.

Those who already possess a Technician license are invited to take the General Class upgrade. Refer to flyer for more info. Signup at http://beniciaarc.com

Please feel free to share this notice with readers, friends, neighbors and workmates.

Art Mayoff, AB6HB

Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday.

## Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee to Disappear in September

The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, September 3. In deciding earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

"Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category," the FCC said in its *Report and Order*, which appeared on July 21 in *The Federal Register*. "Once [it's] eliminated, these licensees will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments."

In 2014 the FCC raised the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from $16.10 to its current $21.40 for the 10-year license term. The $5.30 increase was the largest such fee hike in many years. In a typical fiscal year, the FCC collected on the order of $250,000 in vanity call sign regulatory fees.

The FCC said the revenue it would otherwise have collected from such regulatory fees "will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories." Congress has mandated that the FCC collect nearly $340 million in regulatory fees from all services in fiscal year 2015.

## Send Your Name (and Call Sign) to Mars!

Mars enthusiasts can participate in NASA's next journey to Mars by adding their names — and call signs — to a silicon microchip headed to the Red Planet aboard NASA's InSight Mars lander, scheduled to launch next year.

"Our next step in the journey to Mars is another fantastic mission to the surface," said Jim Green, director of planetary science at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "By participating in this opportunity to send your name aboard InSight to the Red Planet, you're showing that you're part of that journey and the future of space exploration."

NASA issued a similar invitation in 2014 for its Orion test flight. So far nearly 365,000 "boarding passes" have been registered with the InSight mission. NASA will accept submissions until September 8. Visit the Mars InSight "Revealing the Heart of Mars" website to get onboard. — *Thanks to NASA*

The the web address to get your own boarding pass is at:

***http://mars.nasa.gov/participate/send-your-name/insight/***

The web site doesn't ask for a call sighn so I just added mine right after my last name.

Below is a copy of the one I recieved.

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

## THE BIT BUCKET
## CA QSO event

Not that everybody reads the fine print , but the NCCC has me listed for Napa County as a limited station for the CA QSO party event.

Now I need to see about getting permission to use a building at the place I work. If I'm able to get permission, my antennas will be off the nearby ground 4 stories high which should be perfect.

The plan is to use both of my Buddi Sticks (I have two two sizes) and the spare G5RV + my FT-450 rig, which will become my field radio once I buy that new FTDX-3000 radio sometime this year.

Maybe next year I'll sign up as a rover using my p/u truck with the FT-857D radio.

**7 3**

**Marcus, KI6WDX**

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### FCC Universal Licensing System, Other Applications to be Down for Maintenance

From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT August 25, 2015
To all radio amateurs

FCC website maintenance in early September will make the Universal Licensing System (ULS), the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS) and other public applications unavailable for more than 5 days.

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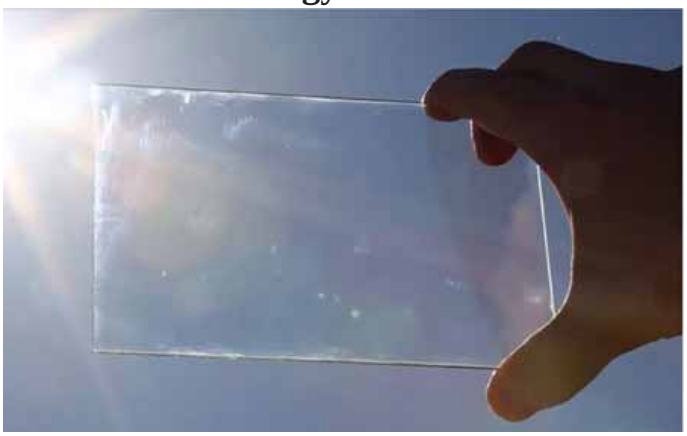
**NET CONTROL OPERATORS**

**1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC**
**2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB**
**3rd week of month-Frank Garay; KJ6RWQ**
**4th week of month-Jerry Olive, KD6WKY**
**On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW**

## Scientists Create an Invisible Solar Cell That Transforms Windows into an Energy Source



According to the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), solar electricity use in the United States increased by 34% in 2014 versus 2013. As the popularity of solar panels grows larger, the cost of the power source drops, making it an even more viable option to many consumers. As such, the SEIA also estimates that the cost to install solar technologies has dropped by over 73% since 2006.

One of the major drawbacks of solar panels is their aesthetic impact, which only allows for a very small amount of light to pass through, as well as the overall size and weight of each panel, which can impact the structural integrity of an existing building.

Ubiquitous Energy has created a solar energy solution that allows light to pass through it, while still collecting an adequate amount of solar energy. Less than 1/1000th millimeter thick the film can be applied to the windows of a building and collect energy, without affecting the amount of light entering the building.

Its secret is that the invisible solar film only absorbs the non-visible light rays: the ultraviolet and infrared. Due to only harvesting two-thirds of the available light, the film does not perform as well as its non-transparent cousins, but it makes up for that fact by allowing solar harvesting where typically unavailable before. Ubiquitous also hopes to use this technology as a power source for mobile devices, which would make charging your devices a thing of the past.

**FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1945**

**WE HAVE SURVIVED! ! ! !**

**Consider the changes we have witnessed!**

We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio, shots, frozen foods, plastic, Xerox, contact lenses Frisbees and the PILL.

We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, and ballpoint pens, before pantyhose, dishwashers; clothes dryers; electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time, closets were for clothes, not coming out of Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeannie, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was the back of the Riviera Theatre.

We were born before househusbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were born before day-care centers, and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, not computers or condominiums; a chip meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, "MacDonald's" and instant coffee were unheard of

We hit the scene when there were 5 and 10-cent stores, where you bought things for five and ten cents. For one nickel you could ride a. streetcar; make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for $600.00 but who could afford one! a pity too, because gas was11 cents a gallon.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, GRASS was mowed, COKE was a cold drink and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the principal's office. We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered; but we were surely before the sex change; we made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today.

BUT WE SURVIVED!!!!What better reason for celebrating?

That leaves only one question...

**WILL THE CURRENT GENERATION SURVIVE TOO?????**

You too can learn from history's past mistakes..

.especially the 1960s-70s!

People spend too much time finding other people to blame, too much energy finding excuses for not being what they are capable of being, and not enough energy putting themselves on the line, growing out of the past, and getting on with their lives.

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**The Board will meet at 7:00 pm followed by the general membership at 7:30 pm.**

**See you all there!**

**THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU**

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

**Wheelchair accessible**

**Pacificon 2015**

October 16-18, 2015 at the San Ramon Marriott
in San Ramon, CA

**Registration is OPEN!!**

Reserve your Tickets and Hotel Room now.

Vendor and Non-Profit Exhibitor registration is OPEN!!
Reserve your spaces now!

Pacificon gives you three great days of activities for one low cost: A full slate of outstanding Forum presentations about a wide range of amateur radio topics, a large Vendor Expo filled with exciting products and exhibits, an outdoor Swap Meet, great QRP activities, a Youth Forum and great Youth Activities

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**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

## VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely. Dues are owed ANNUALLY on your original billing date.

Full Name: _____

Handle: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (Primary) -(_____)_____-_____ OK to Publish? Y / N
Other -(_____) _____-_____ OK to Publish? Y / N

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ? (_____)

E-Mail : _____

**FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)**

Full Name: _____ Handle: _____
Call Sign_____ Lic. Class: _____ARRL Member? Y / N

Full Name: _____ Handle: _____
Call Sign_____ Lic. Class: _____ARRL Member? Y / N

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MEMBER Dues | $25.00 | _____ |
| Each Family Member | $ 2.00 | _____ |
| Student | $ 5.00 | _____ |
| Repeater/Autopatch donation | $(__) | _____ |
| Call/Name badge | $11.00 | _____ |

Paid by CASH: _____

Check # _____ _____

DATE: _____

**Optional ARRL membership:**

Go to www.ARRL.org and save $2.00 on your ARRL membership by entering "Vaca Valley Radio Club" (VVRC) as your radio club.

**Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143**